

#### 2012 AGM AGENDA

This report also serves as the agenda for the Annual General Meeting to be held 1-3 pm (over lunch) on Thursday 28 June in the Emmet Theatre, TCD Arts Building Concourse.

Welcome and thanks, Leslie Howsam

Brief remarks on officers' reports

Announcement of SHARP Travel Grants for the Dublin Conference

#### Announcement of SHARP Prizes.

- Book History Essay Prize, Ezra Greenspan and Jonathan Rose)
- George A. and Jean S. DeLong SHARP Book History Book Prize (Claire Squires)
- Special prize for Twitter on #sharp12 —a copy of the winning DeLong Prize book to the best conference tweeters (Ian Gadd)

Invitation to attend next year's conference: at University of Pennsylvania, 18-21 July 2013 - David McKnight.

Members' announcements

Meeting Adjourns at 3.00 pm

## Annual Report, at the 20<sup>th</sup> annual conference.

# The Battle for Books, Trinity College Dublin, Ireland

2012 is an important anniversary for SHARP – our memorable series of annual conferences now numbers twenty, beginning in the USA in 1993, and since then convening in Scotland, in England, in Canada, in Germany, in France, the Netherlands and Finland. And now, we meet in Ireland. Still, this is only our second Annual Report. The Executive Committee of SHARP is happy to present updates to its members on the activities of our organization.

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**OUR TWITTER HASHTAG: #sharp12** 

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#### LIST OF SHARP'S ELECTED OFFICERS:

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS, with retirement dates (Board and Executive Committee members are elected for 8-year terms):

Kevin Absillis, 2019; James Barnes, 2013; Jonathan Bengston, 2013; Robert Cagna, 2015; David Carter, 2013; Evelyn Ellerman 2017; Ellen Gruber Garvey, 2015; Priya Joshi, 2013; Lisa Kuitert, 2017; Fritz Levy, 2013; Alistair McCleery, 2015; Bob Owens, 2015; Shef Rogers, 2019; Sydney Shep, 2017 Gail Shivel, 2015; Alexis Weedon, 2017; George H. Williams, 2019; Paul Wright, 2015.

#### **NOMINATING COMMITTEE:**

Carole Gerson; Patrick Leary; James Raven

#### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:**

Leslie Howsam, President
Ian Gadd, Vice-President
James Wald, Treasurer
Jyrki Hakapää, Recording Secretary (retiring 2012, replaced pro tem by Corinna Norrick)
Eleanor Shevlin, Membership Secretary
Simon Frost, External Affairs Director
Claire Squires, Director for Publications/Awards
Lee N. McLaird, Director Electronic Resources
Bertrum H. MacDonald, Member-at-large

2013 will be an election year; watch for the call for nominations and then for the on-line voting in advance of the Philadelphia Annual Meeting, where results will be announced.

#### REPORT OF PRESIDENT & VICE-PRESIDENT

Leslie Howsam and Ian Gadd report that our organization remains strong, flexible and solvent – they thank all their fellow-members of the Executive Committee, as well as listowner Patrick Leary, editors Ezra Greenspan, Jonathan Rose and Sydney Shep, book review editors, archivist, bibliographer and all the others who volunteer some of the valuable hours of their academic lives to manage SHARP's day to day activities. Amazingly, we have no paid staff, and the strong financial statement to the right of this column would look very different if that were not the case! We continue to expand SHARP's outreach beyond our initial base in North America, the United Kingdom and Australasia, to Ireland, to continental Europe, Latin America and Asia.

Here are a number of current and future initiatives.

SHARP ARCHIVES. We have an archivist, Jim Kelly of the University of Massachusetts; and within the EC, archival records are part of the oversight responsibility of the Recording Secretary, Jyrki Hakapää. We held a productive meeting last year in Washington and will reconvene next year in Philadelphia, to discuss the management of, and access to, SHARP's two decades of records, including both paper and electronic documents. Meanwhile, if you hold any SHARP records in your personal files, please let Jim or Corinna Norrick (taking over from Jyrki this year) know.

Book History Online. Many members of SHARP have used this valuable web resource, which was formerly based at the Royal Library of the Netherlands at Den Hague. We are working with colleagues in the Netherlands, and hope to be able to help facilitate the transition of BHO to a new platform. Watch *SHARP-News* and SHARP-L for updates over the next few months.

China 2015. SHARP is an Affiliated International Organization of the International Committee of Historical Sciences (ICHS/CISH), which next meets in Shandong. Over the next few months there will be information and calls for participation in that conference.

SHARP-RBS Scholarships. Our new partnership with Rare Book School at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Virginia, has been a great success. The first scholarships – for graduate students and recent Ph.D.s who wish to attend courses at RBS – have been awarded. The winners are Gabriel Fuchs of Columbus, Ohio, USA and Katarzyna Plaszczynska of Krakow, Poland. SHARP members are invited to donate to the Scholarship Fund, through the Rare Book School website.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

The full financial report is available from Treasurer Jim Wald at the AGM, or on request after the conference.

What follows is a snapshot of our financial situation. The figures for fiscal/calendar year 2011 show that SHARP is in a comfortable position. During that year, in terms of regular revenue and expenditure, we had income of about \$46,500 and spent about \$8,000. Income was a combination of membership dues and the royalties we now receive for publishing *Book History* (payments from J-Store and MUSE via Johns Hopkins University Press, for online usage of articles). Expenditures were *SHARP-News*, the book prize, maintenance of sharpweb.org, professional affiliations, etc. We have over \$200,000 in the bank.

Apart from the prudent management of past and present officers, we find ourselves in this position for two main reasons; the revenue from royalties, and the fact that the organizers of some conferences have been in a position to let SHARP share in the benefits of from their stewardship of funds. Otherwise, membership income has remained steady, and the costs of publishing BH (\$20 per copy including postage) and processing memberships (\$8 per head) have not changed. Nor has the cost of printing and distributing SHARP-News, which works out at about \$6.60 per member, per issue.

Funds flow in and out according to the cycle of the membership year and the timing of annual conferences. Membership fees are collected by JHUP, who deduct a fee for their services and also deduct their charges for the publication of *Book History*, and pass the balance on to the organization. Similarly the money for the Conference Travel Grants is collected by one year's conference organizers and forwarded, through SHARP's books, to the next year's group. Apart from the Conference Travel Grants, each conference is self-contained and managed by the sponsoring institution.

As Treasurer, Jim Wald is working with the rest of the Executive Committee and Board of Directors to keep SHARP sustainable while it grows. We are now in a position to invest in studies of book history and book culture, whether by sponsoring research, graduate scholarships, or publication subsidies, making further investment in digital resources, or by contributing directly to the support of selected focused conferences. Some decisions will be made at the Dublin meetings and announced to the membership at the AGM and later via SHARP-L and SHARP-News. More will follow in the coming years.

#### MEMBERSHIP REPORT

A full range of membership statistics will be available from Membership Secretary Eleanor Shevlin at the AGM, or on request after the conference. Here is a snapshot of our membership situation.

In 2011–2012, our last full year (since membership begins and ends at the first of July), we had 1096 members, about the same as the previous year. Almost 80% of these are individual members, some of whom are paying higher fees as supporting or sustaining members; another 16% are students (whose fee does not include *Book History*). There are a handful of institutional members (mostly libraries).

Another way to break out membership is by geographic region. We have members in 34 countries: about 60% are in the United States; 10% each in Canada and the United Kingdom; the remaining 20% are scattered across the globe, with substantial numbers in Australia, Belgium, Finland, France and the Netherlands.

Membership fees are collected through Johns Hopkins University Press, which also handles the printing and distribution of our publications. It is now possible to renew automatically, and for two people living at the same address to have a Joint membership.

Members are surveyed from time to time about what SHARP does for them, and what they can do for SHARP. But in between these formal questionnaires, members are urged to keep in touch with the organization. Eleanor asks both new and longstanding members to renew as soon as the notice appears from JHUP. Timely renewals make it possible for us to print just enough copies of *SHARP-News* and *Book History*, and allow us to report more robust numbers to the institutions who collect subscription statistics.

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## REPORT OF THE MEMBER-AT-LARGE (CONFERENCES)

Bertrum H. MacDonald works closely with the President and Vice-President in advising those who are considering a proposal for a SHARP conference, either focused on a regional or thematic subject, or the annual general-meeting conference. The SHARP conference manual has been updated, and revisions will continue as each year adds to our collective experience.

In addition to the Dublin conference in 2013, there was a SHARP-Focused conference held earlier in June, at Nancy-Université with the theme "From Text(s) to Book(s)". The organizer was Nathalie Collé-Bak.

#### report on conferences, continued:

For 2013, the SHARP EC has approved an application from the University of Pennsylvania, at Philadelphia for a conference to be held 18-21 July. The theme will be 'Geographies of the Book'. Further details will be announced at the AGM.

Also for 2013, the EC has approved an application for a focused conference to be held in Le Mans, France (23-24 May). The theme will be Texts, Forms and Readings in Europe, from the 18th to the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The organizer, Brigitte Ouvry-Vial of Université de Maine, is present in Dublin this week.

At our Dublin meeting, SHARP's EC is considering proposals for annual conferences for 2014 in Europe and 2015 in North America. We hope to announce approval of these events at the AGM. We are also considering a proposal for a focused conference, to be held in Brazil in 2013, and members of the planning committee are present at the Dublin conference.

Meanwhile, Bertrum and the rest of the EC welcome any advice from the membership about conferences. Should we perhaps be thinking of conferences limited to graduate students? Are there certain locations, or particular themes, which are ripe for a visit from the world's book historians?

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## REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR FOR DIGITAL RESOURCES

As Director for Digital Resources, Lee McLaird is responsible for SHARP's rich and sparkling website, sharpweb.org, and for our highly-respected listserv, SHARP-L. The daily supervision of SHARP-L is ably handled by Patrick Leary, who this year helped us navigate the transition to a new listserv 'handler' and the sustainability of our electronic archive. We have recently appointed a liaison for Social Media, Jason Ensor, who will help enhance SHARP's presence in the world of Facebook, Wikipedia and so forth.

The website is always changing, of course, and has been improved this year by two new features. The first is the addition of the SHARP Blog. Various members of SHARP have written short opinion pieces or quick reports on presentations, and readers have offered their comments. Claire Squires, who is responsible for the blog as one of SHARP's publications, welcomes offers and suggestions for further contributions.

The second new feature is a new 'Networking' page in the Discussion section, which allows for announcements from the Society's Liaisons (both organizational and regional liaisons). For more on Liaisons see page 4.

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### REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR FOR PUBLICATIONS AND AWARDS

Claire Squires reports that our annual journal, *Book History*, continues to attract and publish quality scholarship. The editors are taking steps to increase the coverage of non-Western topics in articles. *SHARP-News* also flourishes, with a rich quarterly array of reviews, co-ordinated by a team of book review (and-exhibition and e-resource review) editors. The SHARP Bibliography in the newsletter remains an important resource, supplemented by our presence in *Library Thing*. Those most concerned with *SHARP-News* are looking into the possibilities of eventually moving its content to an online platform.

The new SHARP Blog has featured various contributors, most notably the celebration of the 20th anniversary of SHARP-L with reflections by Patrick Leary.

The 2011 SHARP-DeLong Prize for Book History was won by John B. Hench, for *Books as Weapons:* Propaganda, Publishing, and the Battle for Global Markets in the Era of World War II (published by Cornell University Press). John was present at last year's conference to receive his award in person.

This year's book prize committee received almost 50 volumes, winnowed them down to a shortlist of 9, and selected a winner who will be announced at the AGM.

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#### EXTERNAL AFFAIRS / LIAISON REPORT

SHARP has a strong team of liaison officers. Simon Frost's portfolio relates to the regional officers (formerly called national liaisons) who do everything from simply supplying flyers and promotional material for local events, to mounting focused conferences with the SHARP stamp of approval. Simon has worked hard this past year to overhaul our team of Regional Liaisons (their names are appended here). Six new officers were recruited and elected. Material from their reports will appear in the various SHARP media over the next year.

Eleanor Shevlin, as part of her task as Membership Secretary, manages our liaisons with affiliated societies in various disciplines and interdisciplinary groupings, many of which host SHARP-sponsored panels which provide opportunities for outreach. She too has recruited several new officers. Some have created Facebook, LinkedIn and other social media pages to connect members of the other organization with their counterparts in SHARP.

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#### **SHARP REGIONAL OFFICERS**

Australia: Nathan Garvey Canada: Joseé Vincent Denmark: Simon Frost France: Susan Pickford Germany: Corinna Norrick

Iberian Peninsula: Benito Rial Costas

Ireland: Elizabeth Tilley Israel: Barbara Hochman India: (post remains open) Italy: Loretta de Franceshci

Japan: Andrew T. Kamei-Dyche and Keiko Hori

Netherlands: Arnold Lubbers New Zealand: Nikki Hessell Slovenia: Miha Kovac South Africa: Archie Dick Sweden: Anne Steiner

United Kingdom: (post remains open)

#### SHARP SOCIETY LIAISONS

American Historical Association:

Robb Haberman and Jessica Linker

American Literature Association:

Ezra Greenspan

American Society of 18th-century Studies:

Eleanor Shevlin

American Studies Association:

Erin Smith

Modern Language Association:

Greg Barnhisel

Renaissance Society of America

(position remains open)

South Atlantic Modern Language Association:

Melissa Makala